

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 39, 40, 44, 45, 49-51, 56, 57, 59, and 64 are being amended as shown below. All claims and their status are listed below.

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a computer, wherein the study materials have a level of difficulty;

setting a time period based on the level of difficulty of the study materials;

waiting for a user input to the computer via a keyboard or position-pointing device, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive a user input to the computer via a keyboard or position-pointing device within ~~a specified~~ the time period, which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to attempt ~~get the user's attention so as~~ to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a computer, wherein the study materials include content;

setting a time period based on the content of the study materials;

waiting for an input by the user to the computer via a keyboard or position-pointing device, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive a user input to the computer via a keyboard or position-pointing device within a the time period ~~specified relative to a reference response time,~~ which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to ~~get the user's attention so as~~ attempt to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject;

~~wherein the method further comprises determining the reference response time based on a previous learning session where study materials on the subject were presented to the user via a computer.~~

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting an audio effect.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting a visual effect.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting the study materials independent of the content of the input.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a first window of a computer, where the computer also has a second window;

waiting for the user to ~~physically~~ enter an input to the first window of the computer, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive an input that the user ~~physically~~ enters into the first window of the computer within a specified amount of a time period, when there is one or more inputs by the user to the second window of the computer during the time period, which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to ~~get the user's attention so as to attempt~~ to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject,

wherein the method further comprises setting the time period.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises presenting a question upon failure to receive an input that the user ~~physically~~ enters into the first window of the computer within the specified amount of time.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the question is unrelated to the subject of the study materials.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the user's reply to the question is not used to assess the user's understanding in the subject.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises changing a pace of the presentation of the study materials upon failure to receive an input that the user physically enters into the first window of the computer within the specified amount of time period.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises increasing a stimulation level of the study materials upon failure to receive an input that the user physically enters into the first window of the computer within the specified amount of time period.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises switching to a different set of study materials upon failure to receive an input that the user physically enters into the first window of the computer within the specified amount of time period.

52. (Withdrawn) A method for focusing a user's attention on materials teaching a subject, the method comprising:

presenting materials on the subject to the user via a computer;

waiting for a user input to the computer, with the input being related to the materials presented; and

upon a failure to receive the user input within a predetermined time period, adjusting the materials presented, wherein the adjustment is capable of attracting the user's attention to the materials.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein waiting for a user input is related to waiting for an answer from the user to a question presented in the materials.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein the user input is related to the user input to move the materials along for learning the materials.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52 wherein adjusting the materials presented comprises presenting a question upon a failure to receive the user input within the predetermined time period.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on a subject to the user via a computer, wherein the materials have ~~at least~~ a level of difficulty;

setting a time period based on the level of difficulty of the study materials;

waiting for a user physical input to the computer, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive a user physical input within ~~an amount of time that depends on the level of difficulty~~ the time period, which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to ~~get the user's attention so as~~ attempt to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56,
wherein the ~~amount of time period~~ also depends on a reference response time of the user,
and

wherein the reference response time is determined based on a previous session where study materials on a subject were presented to the user via a computer.

58. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method for helping a user work on materials to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting materials on the subject to the user, the materials including visual materials presented on a display for a computer;

receiving more than one input from the user in connection with the materials presented, where there are at least two locations on the display to receive the inputs; and

adjusting the materials presented in response to the locations of the inputs from the user, wherein based on the adjustment, the user's concentration in working on the materials can be improved.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a computer, wherein the study materials have a level of difficulty;

setting a time period based on the level of difficulty of the study materials;

monitoring an amount of time to receive a timing regarding an input by from the user to the computer via a keyboard or position-pointing device, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

when a user input via the keyboard or position-pointing device in response to the study materials is not received within a specified the time period, which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, then adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to get the user's attention so as attempt to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting the study materials independent of the content of the input.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises presenting a question.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises changing a pace of the presentation of the materials.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises switching to a different set of study materials.
64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44 further comprising providing the user with options for the user to determine how to proceed in the learning process, upon failure to receive an input that the user physiically enters into the first window of the computer within the specified amount of time period.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the question is displayed on a screen and is orally presented.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising praising the user if the answer to the question is correct.
67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising presenting study materials related to the question to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.
68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising presenting the study materials again to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.
69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45,
wherein the study materials presented have at least one difficulty level, and

wherein the method further comprises presenting study materials with a difficulty level lower than the at least one difficulty level to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein whether the answer to the question is correct or not does not affect study materials to be presented to the user.